

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE NETWORK
Children, Family & Futures

HIGH DESERT PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS

MINUTES

January 12, 2004
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center
17800 Outer Highway 18
Apple Valley, CA

In Attendance:

Mary Jaquish	First 5 San Bernardino	mjaquish@cfc.sbcounty.gov	909-386-7706
Rhonda Morken	One 2 One Mentors	ieone2one@aol.com	760-245-1997
Cynthia Medina	Casper After School Care	Reach4dastars@hotmail.com	760-244-1413
Brenda Keeling	VVCSC	yvcsc@charterinternet.com	760-243-9646
Donna Roberts	Wake Up, Inc.	Dnnroberts659@aol.com	760-252-9199
Vici Nagel	HDCC		760-949-2930
Valerie Smith	Yucca Loma Family Center	valerie_smith@avusd.k12.ca.us	760-240-5606
Michele Girard	Public Health	mgirard@dph.sbcounty.gov	760-956-4414
Joan Rudder	Social Marketing Consultant	imaker@msn.com	760-956-8960
Geneva Bates	One 2 One Mentors	Gab294@hotmail.com	760-244-1869
Judy Morris	Moses House Ministries	moseshouse@linkline.com	760-955-1895
Kerri Tracy	Hesperia USD	kerri.tracy@hesperia.k12.ca.us	760-244-4411
Martha Huff	CHDP	mhuff@dph.sbcounty.gov	909-387-3130
Frances Mills	Dept. of Children Services	fmills@hss.sbcounty.gov	760-243-6761
Cynthia Baker	Oasis Bonding Center		760-256-9530
Cheryl Norton	St. John of God Health Care	sjghcs@aol.com	760-241-4917
Chris Lindfelt	Oasis Counseling Centers	chrislindfelt@cs.com	760-245-9446
Cathy Smith	Alpha Connection		760-247-7930
Claire Burrus	"A Better Way" D.V.		760-955-8010
Kristin Campbell	Americore VISTA	ksunisrising@hotmail.com	207-415-8275
Katie Edwards	Ameri Corps *Vista HUDSD	katieedw@hotmail.com	760-244-4411
Sue Taylor	Children's Network	staylor@hss.sbcounty.gov	909-387-4364
Madeline Rodriguez	Department of Children's Svcs.	mrodriguez@dcs.sbcounty.gov	760-243-6750
Marilena Campfield	CHDP	mcampfield@dph.sbcounty.gov	909-387-3052
Marie C. Spain	Sheriff Station	mspain@sbcasd.org	760-256-4838
Marilea Reese	High Desert Homeless Svcs.	Hdhs_prog_dir@accex.net	760-245-5991
Mimi Russell	The Care Place	mimi@thecareplace.org	760-245-5853
Pamela Thompson	Loving the Lamb Ministries	lovingthelamb@yahoo.com	760-887-4002
Carol Ardrey	Loving the Lamb Ministries	jcandcj@mybluelight.com	760-887-4024
Rita Rutledge	High Desert Center	futures@charter.net	760-243-7151
Robert Decker	Clear View Treatment Center		909-338-9849
Rita Downs	Behavioral Health	rdowns@dbh.sbcounty.gov	760-955-2439
Brian Thompson	Children Services	bthompson@hss.sbcounty.gov	909-388-7997

Virginia Barron	SBCSS-State Preschool	760-244-6151
Michelle Gaona	Catholic Charities	760-242-2311
Tammy Williams	Children's Network	tttwilliams@hss.sbcounty.gov 909-387-8966
Susan Melanson	Children's Network	smelanson@hss.sbcounty.gov 909-387-5394
Anna Vasquez	Adelanto School District	anna_Vasquez@aesd.net 760-246-5016

1. Welcome and Introductions

Self-Introductions were made.

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the Agenda.

3. Approval of December Minutes

The minutes will stand as approved.

4. Guest Speaker: Brian Thomson, CWSM, Department of Children's Services, Child Welfare Services Redesign.

See attached handouts.

Questions and Comments

- Susan Melanson of Children's Network stated: She finds this to be an exciting policy and shift in services. It provides the opportunity to reach families on the front end instead of the crisis and removal technique. This policy encourages community participation for families to keep them whole. Over a 10-year period we might see the referral level for intensive needs drop, but it is going to take heavy involvement from the community. Susan and Sue are out in the community addressing parenting issues and have found some great programs but the parents are not coming.

Brian replied: There are over 500,000 kids under age 18 whom reside in this county. Out of every 1,000 telephone calls there are only 70 referrals generated, and then only 12% of that 70 are taken into custody. The Department of Children's Services is looking at what gets referred and how to identify child and family need and what should be filed on. They are working on getting into the community and improving services as well as identifying gaps in hopes of cutting down on repeat referrals through family-to-family and the redesign efforts. Brian mentioned he appreciates the comments and he will take them back to the Department of Children's Services management.

Rita Downs of the Department of Behavioral Health commented: At the beginning of the referral to DCS (Department of Children's Services) the access is not immediate. Once the referral is given to CPS (Child Protective Services) they lose contact and she would like to see developed a community response to the process. Rita understands the budget has a huge effect on the redesign. Making a change without funding while still under state mandate is tough, but she understands DCS is moving forward.

Brian replied: The DCS mission statement was redrafted two years ago. It challenged management and employees to look at families and child referrals. From a law enforcement perspective, kids doing drugs with parents, the Police Department and CPS (Child Protective Services) is called, the child is then released to CPS, and referrals are given for drug rehabilitation. In this particular circumstance Brian related the parents were arrested for abandonment, which is a criminal charge, they should also be charged with drug abuse and will get rehabilitation. These particular circumstances will lead to custody issues. Teens with substance abuse problems typically deal with the Probation Department, not DCS. There is a need to involve the families with parenting skills. The key part to making it work is not to tell them how to raise their kids and not to focus on the negative. The shift now is to focus on answers, not what is wrong. The key to part of the redesign is using foster families in the county as mentors to the birth families.

Michelle Gaona of Catholic Charities asked: How many cases were referred for the fiscal year on emergency housing?

Brian responded: We have just started monitoring those numbers, so he did not have a definite number to give.

Michelle Gaona of Catholic Charities commented: They still have a contract with DCS and will continue providing services to families. They still see a need for incentives on parenting kids. They also see a need for more community involvement.

Michelle Scray with Probation commented: Probation gets informal referrals through the Youth Accountability Board. DCS might take the referrals, but the referrals are not strong enough to go to court. Probation staff follows the cases to prevent court placement. They are also working on preparing for a grant proposal.

Rita Downs of Behavioral Health commented: Suggests surveys identify people in gaps and what the needs are? The referral survey should go out to approximately 250 people, and as an incentive to get responses maybe give away a \$5 phone card.

Vici Nagel of the High Desert Community Coalitions commented: They are working on developing a system to work with families and offer services needed by case managers. She mentioned the February 5th Stakeholders Collaboration Briefing and mentioned a rep from DCS should attend.

Please fill out Brain's survey and let us know what you think! The self-assessment process is to be completed by June 30th. The self-improvement plan is to be presented to the State by September 30th once it has been pre-approved by the Board of Supervisors for submittal.

5. Roundtable Discussion

Sue Taylor of Children's Network reported: She encouraged nominations for the 6th annual Shine a Light on Child Abuse Breakfast, which will highlight and honor those who better the lives of children and families in our county. They have revamped the breakfast from previous years format. They have cut the number of categories in half. Half will be honored this year and half the next year. The past years' honorees will serve as the nomination committee. The breakfast will be held at the Ontario Double Tree on March 31st. If you would like a copy of a well-written nomination please don't hesitate to ask and she can provide you with one (there are two examples in the back of your nomination packet). Sue mentioned that the deadline for the nominations has been extended from February 9th to February 13th.

She has a master calendar of events and if you would like to be placed on it please let her know and we can provide flyers and brochures for distribution.

Mary Jaquish of First 5 San Bernardino reported: Feb. 19th Faith and Justice Community Plea Program. Police Department. District Attorney and Faith-Based with a fee of \$20 per ticket. Compass community grant will be awarded to purchase playground equipment for community based organizations. It's a one-page application – Mary can share more details with you. The Pastor on the Premises is working very well down the hill and if you interested in this program for the desert, Mary can share more details with you. The KidCare America National After-School Training is being offered in Redlands this week and should have excellent after school program information, Mary can share more details with you. The Department of Behavioral Health has an RFP out for Recovery Centers. Mary mentioned she has more information available on stats for youth violence <http://www.fedgrants.gov/applicants/HHS/CDC/PGO/CDCPA%26%23032%B04045/grant.html>.

Mary also referred everyone to an additional handout on funding opportunities that is not in your agenda packets. Mary mentioned a good web site for technology needs for non-profits is <http://www.techsoup.org/>. Mary reminded everyone to be sure and reviews all his or her materials.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Please check your entry in the current MOU. We update every January and there are blank forms available to update your organizations' information is available. Please return the forms with the corrected information at the next meeting or send to Children's Network office. Upcoming meetings: February will cover First 5 San Bernardino Strategic Plan and Children's Network "new" Annual Report.

Vici Nagel of the High Desert Community Coalitions reported: She left a flyer on a January workshop on the back table through HDCC at the resource center in Riverside for \$35. The Homeless Health Fair is January 31st at the Community College, flyer on back table. Last year 500 people attended. Vici reminded everyone again about the High Desert Family Resource Network Stakeholders Collaboration Briefing on February 5th.

Brenda Keeling of VVCSC reported: Brenda thanked everyone for participating in a fundraiser last Thursday. She shared a personal tragedy with the group. Her nephew was murdered on Christmas Eve, which left his children homeless. Brenda is working on a program called New Beginnings, which works with felons for family reconstruction, jobs, etc.

Judy Morris of Moses House Ministries reported: their 7th annual fundraiser dinner will be held on March 5th. They will have a speaker and music. There is no cost for dinner. Come see how Moses House Ministries is growing with a new facility and increased donors.

Cathy Smith of Alpha Connection reported: They are restarting Alpha Tots with some changes and new in-house services for clients.

Barbara Cook of San Bernardino Sexual Assault Services reported: Services are still available. As of Dec. 1st only in Morongo basin rape crisis services are available until May. All services are free and are available in Yucaipa, Redlands, High Desert and San Bernardino. They also have a 24-hour crisis hotline and a Child Specialist in Fontana.

Cheryl Norton of St. John of God Health Care reported: Cheryl is working with the High Desert Coalition. They are having an Olympic event with 14 different games including golf, bowling, and track and field at Comfort Suites.

Oasis Bonding Center reported: Stakeholders for the high desert resources are working on catching up, similar to some of the projects the Department of Children's Services are involved with. The process is essential to move forward.

Martha Huff of CHDP reported: The Gateway program is busy moving forward. Refer your families to CHDP for Medi-cal or Healthy Families.

Cynthia Baker of Oasis Bonding Center reported: Asked to make sure the MOU is changed for their section. This Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. there is aftercare support and childcare available. On January 26th from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. there will be a Spanish speaking parenting class with childcare available. On January 20th starting from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. a Women's Empowerment class will be starting. All the meetings are free. There are two new classes for oral hygienists and postpartum classes beginning.

Robert Decker of Clearview Treatment Center reported: They treat teen substance abuse, and alternative behaviors. He asked the group to donate backpacks or outdoor equipment when they upgrade their own, so they can use the equipment for treatment programs with the teens. They offer a music program with a recording studio and are looking for funding and/or donations of musical equipment and an instructor. Call Robert at (909) 777-2242 to donate equipment or instructor time.

- 6. Next Meeting Date: February 9, 2004 9:00 am**
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center
17800 Outer Highway 18, Apple Valley

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Williams, Children's Network
High Desert Partnership for Kids Recording Secretary

TGW/lmm